

CONGRATS TO ...

Arts Education Director **Emily Kohring**, who is the 2014 winner of Montana's Governor's Award of Excellence, representing the Montana Arts Council. Nomination materials submitted for her award praised her for "superlative work in her first year on the job" and noted that her former experience as a teacher, an artist and a teaching artist-in-residence at schools "brings the perfect blend of skills to this position." Kohring was also lauded for forging "the strongest partnership the agency has ever had with the Office of Public Instruction." Brava, Emily!



Emily Kohring



"Forever Jackson" by Nancy Cawdrey

Montana artist **Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey**, who recently set a record in Jackson Hole, WY, for the sale of her "Forever Jackson" painting. Cawdrey was the featured artist of the 30th Anniversary Jackson Hole Falls Art Festival, held Sept. 13; her large painting sold for \$50,000 to a Whitefish couple who will hang it in their home. The lively bidding was among several collectors, including one phone bidder from Texas. The winning price set a new record for this annual auction. Cawdrey is a member of the Russell Skull Society of Artists, and her work is part of "Continuing the Legacy: The Russell Skull Society of Artists," on display through Jan. 17 at the museum in Great Falls. One of her paintings, loaned from a private collection, is also featured in the "Western American Art South of the Sweet Tea Line IV Exhibition," on display Sept. 27-Jan. 25 at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, GA. The Booth Museum also invited Cawdrey to participate in a panel called "Artful Working Relationships" with her business partner and husband Steve Cawdrey, Oct. 24 during the 12th annual Southeastern Cowboy Festival and Symposium.

Joliet artist **Charles Ringer**, who recently installed a 20-foot-long sculpture of a buffalo at the Billings Logan International Airport, titled "Heartline." The sculpture, constructed from four-inch steel tubing with a heartline comprised of steel and glass mosaic, depicts a pictograph of a native buffalo; Billings artist **Angela Babby** created a fused-glass mosaic with a sun at its center to represent the heart-line of the giant bison. The sculpture was commissioned by the airport and the City of Billings as a memorial to Bruce Putnam, director of aviation and transit for the city for 27 years. **Terry Lee** was instrumental in getting the project from an idea to installation.



"Heartline" by Charles Ringer

Montana State University-Northern art professor **Joel Soiseth**, who recently had his painting "Scary Stories" accepted to the juried National Small Oil Painting Exhibition at the Wichita Center for the Arts in Kansas. Juror Anthony Benton Gude selected 79 oil paintings (each no larger than 18" by 24") for the 21st annual show, on display Aug. 22-Oct. 12. Soiseth, who has taught at the university in Havre for more than 26 years, says he strives "to depict things that are somewhat conventionally beautiful, but have an aura of strangeness, mystery and a slight evocation of unease ... edginess." His work was also featured in a solo show at Carroll College in Helena last winter.

Helena artist **Karen Luckey**, whose painting "Old Homestead" was selected for the 24th annual National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society Best of America Exhibition, held Nov. 12-22 at two locations in Missouri: the Dunnigan Gallery of Art in Bolivar and the Vine Gallery in Orange Beach. A second painting, "Bucket of Blossoms," was juried into the American Artists Professional League's 86th Grand National Exhibition, held Nov. 10-21 at the Salmagundie Club, New York, NY. Luckey was also invited to become an elected artist member of the league after participating in a required number of its national shows. Exhibitions may be viewed online at www.noaps.org and www.americanartistsprofessionalleague.org.



"Bucket of Blossoms" by Karen Luckey

Missoula etched glass artist **Larry Burton**, who recently completed two large glass panels for the St. Anthony Church vestibule in Missoula. Measuring 5' by 8', the sandblasted windows embody the spirit of the church's patron saint, Saint Anthony of Padua, and represent the saint holding the Christ

Child and a lily, standing at a stone garden gate with the Italian countryside in the background. The panels were commissioned by Father Gary Reller and have been praised as "a beautiful work of contemporary iconography." Burton has produced etched glass of various sizes, including extensive wall installations, for the past 30 years.



Larry Burton with glass panels depicting Saint Anthony of Padua

Bozeman artist **Susan Blackwood**, whose oil painting "Remembering" is a finalist in NTD Television's 2014 International Figure Competition Exhibition, on display Dec. 2-7 in New York, NY. The final entries were selected from 18 countries and will be compiled in a book, and receive extensive media coverage from NTD and its affiliates.

Missoula-based artist **April Hale**, who was invited to talk to metalsmithing students at the Appalachian Center for Craft in Smithville, TN, in September about both her conceptual jewelry, which addresses her relationship with the wilderness, and her line of sustainable enameled jewelry that she sells at regional shows and national galleries. She also discussed the transition from the supportive environment of a university to owning her own jewelry business, discussed artist residencies and awards and grants as means to explore new directions, and emphasized the importance of critical thinking. Hale, an alumna of the center, received her master's of fine art from Montana State University in Bozeman in 2011. Upon completion of her degree, she attended artist residencies at Signal Fire and at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, both in Oregon; she's also a recipient of the 2011 Montana Artist's Innovation Award from the Montana Arts Council. She believes these opportunities have helped her achieve her goal of not only continuing to create art after school, but also of making a living at it.

Charlotte Caldwell, whose book, *Visions and Voices: Montana's One-Room Schoolhouses*, was selected by the Montana State Library and Humanities Montana to represent the state at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, DC, in August. The photographer, naturalist and preservationist tells the stories of one-room schoolhouses and the people who spent time there through personal interviews and stirring photographs. Sara Groves, marketing and communications coordinator for the Montana State Library, believes the book contributes "to the mystique of Montana" that festival attendees often talk about with the library's representatives. The festival typically draws as many as 200,000 book lovers. *Visions and Voices*, originally published in 2012, has been newly reissued by the Montana History Foundation. The author, who divides her time between a ranch near Clyde Park and Charleston, SC, is currently working on a book called *The Face of Our Food*, which is about farmers and the local food movement.

The Montana bands listed in *Paste Magazine's* "10 Montana Bands You Should Listen to Now." With the exception of Pearl Jam bassist Jeff Ament, who hails from Havre, and Decemberists' frontman Colin Meloy, a Helena native, Montana isn't known for its rock scene. But author Emilia Fredlick notes that "Big Sky Country has its fair share of up-and-comers," and lists the following: **The Boy and Sister Alma**, featuring Lenny Eckhardt and Jennifer Murphy, Helena; **The Clintons**, Bozeman; **Cure for the Common**, Bozeman; **The Dirty Shame**, Bozeman; **Golden Grenade**, Bozeman; **Little Jane and the Pistol Whips**, Livingston; **Luke Dowler**, Kalispell; **Marshall Catch**, Kalispell; **Stranded by Choice**, Billings; and **Tom Catmull's Radio Static**, Missoula. "Sure, the tunes to come out of the state can be folksy and down-home – when they want to be," writes Fredlick. "But they can also be hard-driving and original." The story is part of The Paste 50 States Project (www.pastemagazine.com).

Andrew Austin, the first recipient of the Anne Morand Memorial Scholarship. Austin, a 2014 graduate of Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls, will receive \$5,000 per year for four years while he attends the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in Denver, where he will major in art education and photography. With a lifelong love of creating art, Austin aspires to eventually return to Montana and teach art at the high school level and become a professional photographer. The Anne Morand Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2014 to honor the late Anne Morand, former chief curator and executive director of the C.M. Russell Museum. The scholarship awards \$5,000 per year for four years to an outstanding graduating senior from a Cascade County high school.

Continued on next page



3

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Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for *State of the Arts*